

We talked of two goals. This bill has been put to bed now, as it were. We are going to be voting on it shortly. We have made some modest improvement to it. The Senators opposite are correct in saying we have been talking about this a long time.

I do not know whether we can take credit for 59 changes or not. They say 59 changes have been made, but I guess we can take credit for some changes that have been made along the way to improve the bill.

We still have problems with the basic concept, and right before we go off into this good night, we need to lodge at least one summary statement with regard to the nature of our concern and where we hopefully will go from here.

The nature of our concern simply is this: It is a more dangerous world out there than ever before, and we have to be more careful than ever we do not export dangerous items to dangerous people that will turn around and hurt this country. The risk of that is greater than ever before.

We do not have two equal goals of trade and commerce on the one hand and national security on the other. The interest of national security dwarfs the interest of trade and commerce, although they are discussed in this Chamber somehow in equipoise. That is not the case. It should not be the case. It is not even set out that way in the bill if one looks to the purposes of the bill. The purposes of the bill are to protect this country. That is why we have an export law, not to facilitate business.

A great majority of the time I am with my business friends, but when it comes to national security I must depart with those who would weigh too heavily the interests of trade. I suggest those who are interested in trade get about giving the President fast track, giving the President trade promotion authority. That will do more for trade and industry and to help the economy of this Nation than exporting dual-use high tech items to China and Russia that may find their way to Iran and Iraq. So that is what we ought to be doing if we are concerned about trade in this country. So those two goals are not equal.

We need to understand what we are doing once again on these issues. Call it a balance, if you will. No matter how you weigh the factors involved, we are giving the Secretary of Commerce and those within the department responsibility for national security. The Secretary, who I have the greatest confidence in—and I think he is a great man doing a great job—should not have the responsibility for national security. That is not supposed to be his job.

We are once again giving the Commerce Department, which we greatly criticized during the Clinton administration for some of their laxness, the life or death decisionmaking power in terms of these regulations or policies, in many important instances—not all instances, not always unilaterally, but

many of them in some very important areas. We are deregulating entire categories of exports.

Foreign availability has always been something we considered in terms of whether or not we would export something or grant a license for something, and I think properly so. We do not want to foolishly try to control things not controllable. So foreign availability ought to be a consideration. We are moving light-years away from that, letting someone over at the Department of Commerce categorize entire areas of foreign availability that takes it totally out of the licensing process, so you do not have a license, and our Government cannot keep up with what is being exported to China or Russia. That is a major move. It is not a good move.

With regard to the enhanced penalties, what sanction is there to be imposed upon an exporter when he is not even required to have a license? It is saying: We will raise the penalty for your conduct, but we will make your conduct legal. That is not very effective in terms of export control, to say the least.

Finally, when I hear the proponents of this legislation say 99.6 percent of these exports are approved anyway, they are arguing against themselves. They use it to make the point this is kind of a foolish process anyway. So if the great majority of them are going to be approved, why even have the process? I assume that is the logical conclusion of their position.

My question is: What about the .4 percent that don't make it? Do we not have to look at the body of exports taking place in order to determine what that .4 is? Or if we didn't have a process, would that .4 be more like 3.4 if people knew there wasn't such a process? The .4 is the important thing to look at. Besides, if all the exports are being approved anyway, why is it so onerous to go through a process that will take a few days and get a clean bill of health so there is no question?

Therein lies the basis of our concern. It is a fundamental disagreement as to how far we should be going in this dangerous time. As the world is becoming more dangerous, as technology proliferates, as we see those we are sending technology to using that technology for their military purposes, then passing it on to rogue nations, and we see our agencies and our committees—like the Cox committee—saying our lax export laws are causing some of this, and we are in the process of loosening export laws, I think that is unwise. I hope I am wrong.

As I said yesterday, I can afford to be wrong. If I am wrong, a few companies have been held up a few days. If the proponents of this legislation are wrong, it could cause problems for the country. I hope I am proven to be wrong and that I am strong enough to be able to stand up and say it when and if that time comes. I hope it does come to that. But we will not know for a while.

In the meantime, hopefully, through changes as we go along, through continuing to work with the administration in heightening their awareness of some of the problems and details we have seen in our committee work over the years, if we see we are going down the wrong track, we will be able to respond and adjust in midstream. I know my colleagues on the other side will join in that hope and desire, and I am sure we will be able to work together toward that end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

U.N. WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, the U.N. World Conference Against Racism recently proceeding in Durban, South Africa, had the enormous potential to make a contribution in the historic fight against race and intolerance. Indeed, holding the conference itself in South Africa was a tribute to the people of that country and their long struggle against racism and apartheid. It could have been a seminal moment in the evolution, in our long fight for individual liberty.

While much progress has been made, we can all attest that racism and discrimination continue to affect hundreds of millions of people around the globe.

This conference had such potential. It could have addressed issues such as the rising intolerance toward refugees, intolerance towards asylum seekers, the unjustified denial of citizenship because of race, religion, or origin. The conference had the potential for the United States to demonstrate the great progress we have made in this country on issues of tolerance, of the fight against racism. In showcasing the American experience, nothing could have more vividly demonstrated the changes in the United States than the presence of Colin Powell, an American Secretary of State, not only of African ancestry but of ancestry beyond our own shores.

Instead of realizing this potential, the conference has collapsed in a storm of recrimination and venomous rhetoric. The United States and Israel have walked out of the conference. It appears that others will soon follow.

The conference, which was intended to be forward looking and to come up with a plan of action for fighting racism around the globe has instead destroyed itself because of old hatreds and the resurrection of discredited agendas. The insistence of Israel's enemies on using this conference to launch vile attacks on Israel, to attempt to equate Zionism with racism, has fully and completely justified the Bush administration's decision to withdraw from the conference.

I take the floor today because on a bipartisan basis I believe it should be clear this Senate supports the Bush administration's decision to leave the

conference, to attack its agenda, and to make clear we will have no part of it.

For many years, Arab regimes have used the United States to advance their anti-Israel agenda. What is happening in Durban today is not new. The tragedy is the lesson has not been learned. In 1975, with the support of the so-called nonaligned nations, these regimes succeeded in passing the infamous "Zionism equals racism" resolution. After much work, the United States, to our considerable credit, had that odious resolution rescinded in 1991.

The U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has referred to that resolution as the "low point in the history of the United Nations." To his credit, Annan has acknowledged the historical U.N. bias against Israel and called for the normalization of Israel's status within the U.N. Indeed, normalization has been acquired.

For 40 years, Arab and Muslim nations prevented Israel from becoming a member of any regional group. By that denial of regional status, Israel and Israel alone is prohibited from becoming an eligible member of the Security Council. This tremendous injustice was finally rectified only last year when Israel was able to join the Western European and Others Group.

Despite the Secretary General's leadership in trying to improve U.N. resolutions regarding Israel, we are now forced to fight these old battles again, those seeking to defend not only anti-Israel but indeed anti-Semitism for their own political purposes. While the anti-Semitic rhetoric being shouted by demonstrators in the streets of Durban is alarming enough, it is more appalling to see the rhetoric being placed in official negotiated documents of a U.N. conference itself. This demonstrates that not only have we not made progress, but indeed this is as bad as any action taken in the unfortunate history of the U.N. on this subject.

The declaration being produced by the conference and the program of action which flows from it are intended to help countries strengthen national mechanisms to promote the human rights of the very victims of racism. But including anti-Semitic language in these documents cannot possibly have a positive effect for the conference agenda. If the anti-Israel language is allowed to stand in the conference declaration, it will have real and lasting effects. The language proposed in this conference will only serve to encourage virulent anti-Semitic language pouring forth from the Palestinian media and media of those of Israel's neighbors. The language of intolerance and hatred is a key factor in inciting the brutal acts of terrorism now being perpetrated against Israel's civilians.

So an organization created and dedicated to peace is now promoting language, in an official conference, during a time of violence in the Middle East, that can only result in the loss of life

and further hatred. American withdrawal from this conference sends an emphatic message to the Arab world that the United States commitment to Israel has not wavered and our concept of the United Nations as an organization dedicated to peace and resolving these very disputes has not changed.

The administration's decision to abandon the racism conference once it was clear that Israel would continue to be singled out was not a partisan action; it was a principled action. I fully endorse it.

I hope the United States will defend any nation, not just Israel, which is unfairly singled out for criticism.

While I support this decision, I believe there are larger problems involved that deserve our attention. The forces that compelled us to withdraw from the conference—anti-westernism, anti-Americanism—have come together in the U.N. before and may represent a growing challenge to our country. So the decision to withdraw because of anti-Semitism was proper. But it may not be the only justifiable reason. There are others.

Only a few months ago, in May of this year, we had another debacle involving the United Nations when the United States was voted out of the U.N. Human Rights Commission. What an unbelievable outrage. I do not stand in the well of the Senate believing that the United States has not committed historic acts worthy of criticism; clearly we have. I do not argue that the United States is beyond criticism for actions in our generation; clearly such acts have occurred. I am willing to have our Nation measured against the highest standard. But for the United States of America to be removed from the Human Rights Commission upon the votes of an organization which includes Iraq, Libya, and Cuba is an outrage.

So while I take the floor today in light of the current acts designed against Israel, I do so in the context of the actions of the United Nations on a continuing basis with regard to many countries, including our own.

The United States has had a seat on the Human Rights Commission continuously since 1947. We have been a clear leader on the Commission, enforcing investigations of human rights abuses around the world. Indeed, U.N. High Commissioner Mary Robinson has said that the United States has made a "historic contribution" to the Commission. Indeed, I see no need to justify the actions of the United States with regard to human rights. Indeed, it is not because we don't defend human rights that we were removed from the Commission; it is because we do defend human rights that we were removed from the Commission. Had we not taken actions against Cuba, had we not spoken up against atrocities in North Korea and China, had we been silent about actions in Africa and Latin America, there is no doubt the United States would have remained on the

Commission. We are victims because of what we have done right, not because of what we have done wrong.

I have no doubt that our standing up against anti-Semitism and in defense of Israel will now strengthen the case against the United States as an advocate of human rights. So be it. Let the nations of the world balance the actions of the United Nations and their own regimes against the historic role of the United States, considering our historic difficulties, and let history be the judge. Which institution, the U.S. Government or the United Nations itself, has been the more consistent and dependable defender of the weak and the vulnerable, with a principled stand for human rights? I will accept that judgment of history, and there is no need to wait for the result; it is clear. The U.S. Government has had no peer in defending the rights of peoples around the globe.

I take the floor as a partisan Democrat involved throughout my career in the fight for human rights and an active involvement in foreign policy to salute this administration. Secretary Powell did not go to Durban. He made the right decision. When the administration withdrew from the Durban conference, President Bush made the right decision. Durban is not our place. If we must fight the fight against racism, the fight against anti-Semitism, alone, without the United Nations, from the perch of Washington rather than the perch of the U.N. conferences in New York or regional conferences in Durban or Switzerland or anywhere else, we may fight alone but we fight in good company.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the U.S.-Canadian dispute on softwood lumber.

Although it might have escaped the attention of many in Washington, the Bush administration announced a critical trade policy decision over the August recess.

After considering truck loads of evidence provided by a legion of lawyers, the Department of Commerce once again decided that Canadian provinces giving away timber at a fraction of its value was a subsidy to Canadian lumber production.

Specifically, the Commerce Department issued a preliminary finding that these subsidies amounted to 19.3 percent of the value of Canadian lumber. Further, the Commerce Department